Support to private enterprises for processing fruits and vegetables

1920. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proposal of Government to lure private entrepreneur to make the food processing industry commercially and economically viable by processing and canning the fruits for domestic and International market; and

(b) the details of the support proposed to be provided by Government to the private enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) A number of policy initiatives have been taken by the Government *inter alia*:

(i) Exemption from Central Excise for processed products of fruits and vegetables.

(ii) Declaring food processing as priority areas.

(iii) Almost the entire food processing sector is delicensed.

(b) For promotion of Food Processing Industries, under Plan Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries financial assistance is provided in the form of grant for setting up of new unit or for expansion/ modernisation of existing unit. Under the respective scheme, Private Enterprises are eligible for assistance in the form of grant subject to 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works upto a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General Areas and 33.33% upto 75 lakhs in Difficult Areas.

Besides, other agencies like, NHB, APEDA, NCDC also provided assistance under their respective schemes.